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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 004125

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY IN ACCORD WITH USG ON DUAL-HATTING U.S.  
COMMANDER FOR NATO TRAINING IN IRAQ

REF: STATE 161037

Classified By: PolMil Counselor Timothy A. Betts for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: Turkey supports the U.S. proposal to "dual-hat" the U.S. MNF-I Commander in Iraq for NATO's training mission for Iraqi security forces. MFA officials (rightly) predicted France would object. Turkey has offered to train Iraqis in Turkey, but may consider sending "two or three" liaison officers to Iraq for this purpose in the future. Long-standing plans to send Turkish police personnel to train Iraqis in Jordan is still held up by a sluggish budget procedure; the Turks may consider joining up police and military training plans and budgets in an effort to break this logjam. End summary.

2. (C) On July 26, PolMilCouns and PolMilOff called on MFA Deputy Director General for NATO Military Affairs Fatih Ceylan to deliver reftel demarche. Ceylan responded that the GOT had taken an interagency decision July 23 to support the U.S. proposal to "dual-hat" the U.S. MNF-I commander for NATO's training mission for Iraqi security forces. For the Turks, as long as the commander responsible for the NATO training program reports through NATO channels, they have no problem with this setup. Accordingly, the GOT instructed its NATO Mission not to break silence on this issue in the Military Committee.

3. (C) Ceylan predicted that the French (or possibly the Germans) might object to the U.S. proposal. He interrupted our conversation to call Brussels, and learned that the French (and only the French) had broken silence by the July 26 12:00 noon (Brussels time) deadline, and reported that the Turkish NATO Mission understood that the French would present their reasoning for doing so later on July 26.

4. (C) Ceylan outlined current Turkish plans for training Iraqi security forces under NATO and said that the GOT had submitted its plan at SHAPE and to Military Committee members. The Turks would train Iraqis, including senior military leaders in Turkey. "If all goes well and if conditions permit," Turkey would then consider sending "two to three" liaison officers to carry out training in Iraq.

5. (C) Ceylan was unaware of our previous discussions with MFA Deputy Iraq Coordinator Tokdemir about Turkey's sending police trainers to the Iraqi police training center near Amman. (Note: We understand that all the arrangements were made to send trainers, but the Ministry of Interior was waiting for a special budget allocation from the Prime Ministry to fund trainers' per diem.) Ceylan said he would look into this, with an eye toward incorporating police training under Turkey's contribution to the Iraqi training effort.

6. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

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